controlling locust in the cultivated areas in the Districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhil-wara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodh-pur,. Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Srj Ganganagar and Uaipur.

(b) Six high level Indo-Pakistan Bild-teral Meetings have been held since 1975. The last meeting was held at Islamabad on 8-9 June, 1988. Keeping *in* view the seriousness of locust situation, frequency of border mestings was increased and during the period from June to November, 1993, ten border meetings of the Indo-Pakistan locust officers were held to discuss locust situation and control operations in both the countries,

The following international assistance has been received through FAO so far:—

(i) 15 High Frequency (HF) Radie Sets.

(ii) 20.2 MT of fenitrothion ULV.

(iii) 100 hand held battery operated MICRO-ULVA sprayers.

(iv) 8ULVA-MAST, Vehicle mounted sprayers.

Revision of price of dried coconut

2080. SHE SHIV PRATAP MISH-,RA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state:

• -(a) .whether it is a fact that Govern-- ment propose to revise the support. price of- dried coconut fixed, in 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not,- the reasons therefor?

" THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY' OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The ' Government has already fixed the mini- mnm support price of milling copra at ' Rs 2150 per" qutl.' and that* of ball at it Rs. 2350-per quintal for 1993 seasons.

Harmful effets of pesticide

2081. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAE MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awar. that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia South Pacific, Islands, Cosra Rica, Brazi Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashes pestiide use and are harvesting greate yields than before;

(b) whether Government propose advise the Indian farmers to cut pesticide use by 50 percent to save cost and in crease prooduction, as the use of pesti cide is proving harmful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and th reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONA1 ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINI STER OF STATE JIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRESH NA KUMAR): (a) The adoption of In tegrated Pest Management approach ha enabled the farmers to reduce the cons umption of chemical pesticides in man' countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise th use of chemical pesticides the Govern ment is promoting Integrated Pest Mina gement technology wherein it is advocat ed that chemiccal pesticides should b used as a last resert on the basis o economic threshold level of pests.

Policy on agricultural mechanisation

2082. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: W the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pie sed to state:

(a) whether Government have consi luted a Committee to draft a policy oi agricultural mechanisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that mrely tnree percent of the American popution i.e. about seven million people arc engaged in agriculture as compad to about 500 million in India;